Cancer Patients Need Rides To Treatment

American Cancer Society seeks more drivers for their Road to Recovery Program.

By Mercia Hobson
The Connection

The last thing a patient living with cancer should have to worry about is how to get to treatment. Yes, there are family and friends, but jobs bring in money to pay bills and children must be supervised. As for taking public or private transportation, those options may cost too much or be too stressful, especially after a chemo session. That’s where the American Cancer Society may be able to help. Through their Road to Recovery Program, they provide free rides to treatment for cancer patients who have no way to get there.

But in Fairfax County, there’s a problem. The supply of drivers does not equal the demand. That’s why on Monday, March 27, a team of dedicated American Cancer Society Road to Recovery drivers met with staff at the organization’s Northern Virginia office, 124 Park St., Vienna. They compared experiences and brainstormed how to get the word out to potential drivers.

Dave Laufer is a driver. He also volunteers to oversee the Road to Recovery computerized Service Match program. Laufer verified Fairfax County has the most requests for rides in the region, but there are only 30 active drivers, not enough to meet the demand. “There are so many patients in the Herndon/Chantilly area that need help,” said Kent Dellinger, a driver from McLean. “There was a man who was taking three buses and walking to his sessions,” said Leah Contreas, program manager, American Cancer Society, Inc. “When matched for a ride, he was so thankful.”

THREE KEY FACTORS that make volunteer service as a driver for Road to Recovery a positive experience include: simple training; flexible volunteer hours and personal rewards.

“Training to use the program’s Service Match is less than an hour,” Laufer said. “And the volunteer hours are flexible.” Marshall Abbate, a driver from Stafford, added: “It’s not a routine of the same day each week.”

Kelly Gray from South Riding had been out of the workforce for a period, raising her family. Before becoming a driver for Road to Recovery, Gray tried other service opportunities, but they did not fit. Given the ease of training, flexibility and personal rewards, being a Road to Recovery driver was the perfect fit for Gray.

“When I see a drive opportunity, I can click on it. I know people who need this service. I’ve experienced it,” Gray said. “And this service I’m qualified to do. I can drive. I can listen... and I can do something for me.” Other drivers spoke up on how being a Road to Recovery driver fit their life. “I got my degree in Public Health Care and found Road to Recovery was my way to help the cause,” said Onize Oniwon.

“My dad passed away from cancer,” said Andy Freckmann.

“How can we find more drivers,” Laufer asked. Drivers readily spoke up. They offered ideas that fit into three marketing strategies:

- Free media print campaigns: write articles for newspapers, community newsletters and magazines.
- Word of mouth advertising: contact schools, retirement centers and senior centers.
- Cause marketing: create partner relationships between American Cancer Society and for-profit businesses that offer paid time for volunteering.

VOLUNTEERING for Road to Recovery is a win-win. It benefits people who want to give back, the American Cancer Society that needs drivers, but most importantly, cancer patients who do not have a way to get to treatment.

Learn more about American Cancer Society Road to Recovery program, call 1-800-227-2345 or email ddlaufer@gmail.com.

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Herndon's Chief of Police explains the policy that will guide the use of the cameras.

By Fallon Forbush
The Connection

A

ll police officers in the Town of Herndon will be using body cameras by May.

The bodycams, Panasonic Arbitrator Body Worn Cameras, were unveiled at a public forum by Herndon's Chief of Police Maggie DeBoard on Thursday, March 30.

At the forum, DeBoard explained the policy that will guide the use of the cameras, which officers must turn on manually to record.

"People think that once an agency has a body camera program, it solves all of the problems in the world," Herndon Chief of Police Maggie DeBoard said at the meeting. "Cameras generally don’t always answer all the questions that may occur during the course of an interaction in the public. We look at those cameras as simply having an additional tool for accountability and efficiency out in the public."

The officers are not required to notify the public that they are being filmed, but the public should expect that they are always being recorded. This is because the police department’s policy calls for it.

OFFICERS are required to activate the body-worn cameras when they are providing police services to the public. These mandatory actions include traffic stops, calls for service, arrest situations and searches.

"Every patrol and motor officer will be wearing them on a day-to-day basis," DeBoard said.

The police department’s policy only gives officers a few situations when they are not to use the bodycams while they are interacting with the public.

One exception is while officers are in places where there is an expectation of privacy, like medical and mental health facilities. Another is while officers are in their cars. This is because their vehicles are already equipped with audio.

"If there is any other time when they intentionally deactivate [their bodycams] during a call, they have to justify why they did that," DeBoard said.

Supervisors will be conducting monthly audits to ensure officers are following the policy. These supervisors will also be audited every three months.

"That accountability really works on both sides of the camera," DeBoard said.

DeBoard told the audience that she hopes the bodycams will help the department capture criminal events to use as evidence in court. She also expects the cameras to accurately document actions of police pursuant to criminal investigations.

"We spend a lot of time working com-plaints [about officers] that we could very quickly clear up if we had more information," DeBoard said.

DeBoard started seriously considering bodycams for her officers two years ago and decided that the department needed other video enhancements first.

LAST SUMMER, the department replaced its interview cameras at the police station and all its vehicle cameras. The bodycams were the final step in the department’s video upgrade, according to DeBoard. And they are all integrated.

"The bodycams aren’t expensive, but the storage of the video is," DeBoard said.

A bodycam pilot program was implemented at the end of last year. With two officers using cameras per shift, 457 videos at a total of 92 hours were captured.

"You can imagine the number of videos that we will be capturing once we deploy these out, even at a small department," DeBoard said.

The Herndon Town Council approved $71,000 of new funding for the bodycams in its fiscal year 2017 mid-year budget on Feb. 14.
Another Step to Police Transparency

OPENING

Opening up records of “unattended deaths” to families.

The first paragraph of Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1968, states that all public records “shall be presumed open.” But the legislation includes an exception that allows police to withhold “complaints, memoranda, correspondence, case files or reports, witness statements and evidence.”

As a result, many police departments around the Commonwealth, including Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax, have adopted what they call a “blanket” approach to using their exemption. That means they have decided to withhold any document they can without any analysis of whether they should. Police chiefs and prosecutors from across the commonwealth have spoken out against any effort to undermine their broad power of exemption.

To its credit, the Fairfax County Police Department has committed to “release police reports with redactions rather than creating a summary document,” and the new policy is in progress.

During the 2017 session of the General Assembly, state Sen. Scott Surovell’s bill, SB1102, passed both the House and Senate without any votes in opposition. The bill would require police to release the records of investigations of deaths by suicide to the closest family member.

The bill summary: “Virginia Freedom of Information Act; completed unattended death investigations; mandatory disclosure. Requires that records of completed unattended death investigations be released to the parent or spouse of the decedent or, if there is no living parent or spouse, to the most immediate family member of the decedent.”

Gov. Terry McAuliffe proposes to gut the bill by amending it to only require the police to provide a summary of the report.

Families deserve to have access to completed police reports about the death of a loved one. (This is also an issue for murder victims and other situations, but is not addressed by this bill.)

The General Assembly meets for its veto session Wednesday, April 5, and we urge every member who voted in favor of Surovell’s bill to vote to block the amendment.

We note that police departments do not have to withhold these reports; nothing in the current law prohibits their release. Police departments could choose the compassionate and transparent approach by releasing reports, redacting the names of witnesses and other information as reasonably necessary. This is what the FCPOD is working towards.

— MARY KIMM

Bidding Farewell to Circus ‘Big Top’

Last chance to see it in Northern Virginia.

By Michael McCormow

The Connection

Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus will close early next month and become a page in history. A few troupes will continue, some with specialties like Cirque du Soleil and others that are true circuses but small like Circus Flora. But the “Big Top” will be gone.

Attending the final few performances, nobody would guess that the end is drawing near. Performers, at the peak of their profession in “The Greatest Show on Earth,” are not about to ease up on their routines or disappoint the audience.

A blur of countless colors, music pouring from carefully positioned speakers, costumes alight with spangles and crystals, lions and tigers caged with a man and a whip, lights scanning the crowd and reaching high above the ring, horses with bareback riders, people climbing to and hanging from the rafters, everything one expects in a circus envelope each guest, young or old. Everything, that is, except the elephants that are retired to a conservation center in Florida.

Circuses can be measured by the members of clown alley, and Ringling always has some of the best. While facing disappointment as the company closes, the clowns have lost none of their energy and joy performing. In fact, they display optimism alongside professional pride.

Joan Fernandez Cabrera said he is happy to work with Ringling, but when it ends he will visit his family in Cuba and then journey to Europe with confidence of finding work. “There is always room for a good clown,” he said.

The story is much the same with Victor Rossi, originally from France and of a family with many generations in the circus.

Ringling has brought laughs and gasps to countless millions during its 146 years crisscrossing the country. It could hold its own with the hundreds of television channels in high definition and color.

Over the next few days, a man with a tall hat and wearing a military cut jacket of many colors will step into the spotlight and cry out “Ladies and gentlemen and children of all ages, you are about to see the most extraordinary performers and exotic animals one last time at The Greatest Show on Earth.” Older listeners will recall memories of years past, and the young will file away a memory to be recalled in years yet to come.

The bad news is that the circus is passing away. The good news is that it also is passing through Northern Virginia for a final time, right now.

Details

Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus Friday, April 7 through Sunday, April 16 EagleBank Arena (formerly Patriot Center) George Mason University Campus, Fairfax See www.ringling.com

Tune into Budget Hearings This Week

• Tuesday, April 4, 4 p.m., Public Hearing before Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; School Board presents budget to Board.
• Wednesday, April 5, 1 p.m., Public Hearing before Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.
• Thursday, April 6, 1 p.m., Public Hearing before Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.
• Friday, April 7, 1 p.m., Public Hearing before Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Residents can listen to any meeting live in the Board of Supervisors boardroom by calling 703-324-7700.
New Townhomes Break Ground

Town of Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel and members of the Herndon Town Council join Tradition Homes owners Steve and George DeFalco on Tuesday, March 21, in breaking ground for the next phase of the Junction Square project. The new townhomes will be located at the corner of Elden and Monroe streets in downtown Herndon.

Dermatology & Allergy

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Kathryn J. Sowerwine, MD

Dr. Kathryn J. Sowerwine is a board-certified Allergist and Immunologist with a special interest in dermatological diseases linked to allergy. She completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Georgetown University Hospital and her clinical and research fellowship in allergy and immunology at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD.

Dr. Sowerwine has specialized training and experience to find out what causes your allergies, prevent and treat symptoms, and help keep them under control.

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- Assorted Cakes

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- Green Beans & Corn
- Rice Pilaf

Carving Station
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- Roasted Leg of Lamb
- Virginia Baked Ham
- Seafood Medley
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Town Finance Director Sworn In

An Oath of Office was administered to Jennie Tripoli, the town of Herndon’s newly-appointed director of finance, on Tuesday, March 28, at the Herndon Council Chambers Building. Tripoli will be responsible for the town’s financial affairs, including successful execution of the annual budget; analysis and counsel related to fiscal decisions by the Town Council; management of financial processes and fiscal policy execution; adherence to and preparation of accounting reports related to annual audits and professional organization standards; and management of Department of Finance personnel. She started working on March 13.

Rendering of the completed project streetscape.
Senior Living

Herndon Village Network board members Rosemary Kendall, Charlie Marts, and Jenny Phipps welcome guests.

Herndon Village Network Enjoys Fundraising Success

Herndon Village Network thanks the many Herndon leaders and community supporters for their enthusiasm during the fundraiser held at O’Sullivan’s Irish Pub in March. The turnout was excellent; the food and drink were great, and the company was the best. This community spirit, combined with O’Sullivan’s generosity, raised needed funds in support of Herndon’s senior citizens.

Herndon Village Network will use the donations to fulfill its mission of providing the elderly with transportation for appointments, errands, social gatherings, and other outings. This more organized concept of neighbors helping neighbors encourages older residents to age in the Herndon community and allows them to maintain established routines and connections, which results in a higher quality of life. Herndon Village Network (HVN) provides rides via vetted volunteers on weekdays and weekends. Herndon residents who are 55 or older, live in the 20170 zip code, and are interested in HVN services should call 703-375-9439. For more information, visit www.herndonvillagenetwork.org.

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Nysmith School Students
Outstanding at Odyssey of the Mind

As Nysmith School begins to wind down in preparation for spring break (week of April 10), plenty of its students are gearing up by recording impressive results in the prestigious academic competition, "Odyssey of the Mind (OM)."*

❖ The fourth grade OM team—coached by Vernice Gibson-Jones of Herndon—took first place honors in the Division II competition and advanced to the OM State Championships on April 1 in Aldie, Va. (John Champe High School). The students presented their hand-crafted Odd-A-Bot "robot" that witnessed and duplicated four human activities and then applied the movements in a unique and entertaining fashion. The team members include: Anaahita Kaashyap, Anderson Jones and Rishabh Kumaran (all of Herndon), Henry Pan (Reston), Nyla Kathuria (Fairfax), Veer Dabbi (Oak Hill) and Austin Greene (Great Falls).

❖ A team of fifth graders took second place in its division, scoring high marks in both the long-term and spontaneous problem-solving portions of the competition. Coached by Levent Koc Ozdemir of Vienna, Sandra Serna of Leesburg and Holy-Tiana Rame of Washington, D.C., the squad includes: Aanya Kolli (of Chantilly), August Rame (Washington, D.C.), Melis Ozdemir (Arlington), Sahithi Atluri (Centreville) and Valentina Suarez (Leesburg).

❖ The seventh grade team placed third in its competition, also building a robot to replay human actions in a creative way. The team, coached by Dr. Krishna Madiraju of Ashburn and Michael Joyce of Sterling, includes: Swetha Madiraju, Srivatsa Krishnamurthy (of Ashburn), Adeline Kong (Great Falls), Sarang Arun (Fairfax), Michaela Joyce (Sterling), Neha Regi and Rohan Regi (Centreville).

*Photos contributed

Nysmith fourth grade team, from left: Anderson Jones, Austin Greene, Anaahita Kaashyap, Nyla Kathuria, Rishabh Kumaran and Veer Dabbi.

Nysmith's seventh grade team: Swetha Madiraju, Sarang Arun, Adeline Kong, Rohan Regi, Michaela Joyce, Neha Regi and Srivatsa Krishnamurthy.
EASTER EVENTS

**SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 8-9**

**Easter Eggs-Travaganza.** 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at Roer’s Zoofari, at the corner of Hunter Mill Road and Baron Cameron Drive in Vienna. Egg hunts, safari tours, and more. Participants in the Easter Egg hunt are asked to bring their own basket. Call 607-757-6222, or visit www.roersoofari.com.

**FRIDAY/APRIL 14**

**Good Friday Services.** Noon-3 p.m. at Dravnieks Church of the Brethren 11560 Leaburg Pike, Herndon. The service will be the Seven Last Words of Christ featuring six local worshipers. Free. Visit theflyer@ctflyer.greenfalls.org for more.

**SATURDAY/APRIL 8**

Aqua Egg Hunt: 1:30 p.m. at Herndon Community Center pool, 814 Fenderal Ave., Herndon. Children will collect as many floating eggs as possible in the time allowed. $10. Open swim at 4 p.m. Visit herndon-va.gov for more.

**SUNDAY/APRIL 15**

Egg Hunt: 9:30 a.m. at 777 Lynn St., Herndon, behind the Herndon Municipal Building. Story readings, coloring mural, tattoo shock, petting zoo, photo-op with Easter Bunny, instrument “Petting Zoo” brought to you by Bach to Rock. $9 in advance or $10 at the event. Visit herndon-va.gov for more.

**MONDAY/APRIL 17**


**THURSDAY/APRIL 20**

**Dollars and Sense Discussion.** 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Complimentary pre-performance discussion. For adults. Free. Visit www.artspaceherndon.com or call 703-956-9560 for more.

**TUESDAY/APRIL 25**

**Spring Flower Bouquets.** 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Trey McIntyre Project, and faculty of Classical Ballet Theatre. Admission is $60 per ticket. All proceeds will be donated to “Food for Others,” the largest food pantry in Herndon. Email theflyer@ctflyer.greenfalls.org for more.

**FRIDAY/APRIL 21**

**Learning Ally Celebration.** 9-10 p.m. at The Foundry, 12001 Market Street, Suite 103, Reston. Admission is $35. Visit www.flickr.com/HerndonMS for more.

**TUESDAY/APRIL 25**

**Family Challah Bake.** 6-8 p.m. at Congregation Kol Emeth, 12523 Lawyers Road, Herndon. Evening of challah making, dinner and dancing. Enjoy kosher pasta, salad & dancing while the challah rises. Email Office@berethemformore.org or call 703-860-4515x101.

**FRIDAY/APRIL 28**

**Empty Bowls.** 5:30-8 p.m. at Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. Food served in a handmade pottery bowl to keep as a reminder that there are those who are hungry. $25 adults and $15 children at the door/$15 for children under 12. Visit www.givingcircleofhope.org.
Capital Harmania Hosts Women’s Choral Festival

Performance honors Women’s History Month.

By Mercia Hobson
The Connection

The second Annual Women’s Choral Festival hosted by Capital Harmania was held at the Community of Faith United Methodist Church in Herndon, Sunday March 26. The festival celebrated women’s contributions over the last 100 years and called attention to challenges women face across the globe today.

The afternoon program featured a repertoire of songs from classical to Broadway to pop performed by two, age-different female choirs, Capital Harmania and the Oakcrest School Chorus from McLean. Mary Ann East, Artistic Director and Co-founder of Capital Harmania, and Anne Miller, Music Director of Oakcrest School, conducted.

The festival showcased music specially written for women’s voices and composed by women. The selections, accompanied by piano and string quintet, were chosen to inspire and empower the younger women to become advocates for women’s causes. Intermixed between songs were readings of original poems written to reflect the pieces. Free and open to the public, the festival attracted more than 150 guests.

The program began with the combined choirs singing “Words of Strength,” by Gwyneth Walker, accompanied by Rachel Thompson of Vienna on piano. The lyrics were a dialogue between the two generations. Initially, each choir sang separately, and then the choirs’ voices intensified, ultimately ending in unison. The sense of past and present was evident in the uplifting and hopeful music.

During the intermission, Molly O’Boyle, from Reston, attended the event. During the intermission, she said she was impressed by the age diversity in the program.

East recognized individuals in the audience who lead the 22 Washington area and national organizations that Capital Harmania partners with throughout the year, their “Partners in Song.”

Jasmin El Kordi is a chorus member from Vienna. Before the festival performance, she said Capital Harmania relies on individual contributions and the generosity of organizations to help support their operating expenses.

Kelly Hood, a Capital Harmania board member and singer from Fairfax, summed it up, saying: “It’s about the joy of the music.”

For more information about Capital Harmania, a 501(c)3 charitable organization, visit www.capitalharmania.org.
Sick & Tired

By KENNETH E. LOURIE

Man’s narrative; I was sick last weekend (that was not a question). It began as a funny nose, followed by an annoying coughing, compounded by a steaming, and watery eyes, an occasional headache, with zero interest in food and hardly any energy to get myself out of bed. When I didn’t practice the entire time, I haven’t seen that sick/capacitated since, as I don’t know when.

Thankfully, there was no temperature, sore throat or nausea to further complicate my inability to move off the bed. And most thankfully, there was no evidence (of it) in my room (I don’t know if I would have had the where-withal to even get there). Otherwise, I might have actually had to call for an appointment at the Emergency Room. After all, I do have cancer so I really shouldn’t ignore... totally — the times when I’m feeling uncharacteristically bad.

This past weekend, I had gone from bad to worse and have called home.

However, my symptoms, as miserable as they were, especially for two days, didn’t meet the threshold as set by my oncologist. Though the symptoms were new and different from ones that I know, they certainly weren’t unusually different (lung cancer related) for a seasonal type cold. Moreover, the pain/discomfort wasn’t coming from my lungs, and the symptoms had only lasted a few days, not a few weeks. I therefore determined that unlike Babe Ruth who felt “just as bad” as he sounded in his famous Babe Ruth Day farewell speech at Yankee Stadium on April 27, 1947, I wasn’t dying. I was just sick with a bad cold, one that was worse than any I remember although I’ve forgotten. See column titled “I Can’t Forget What I Don’t Remember” published 3/22/77.

Nevertheless, since I’m not a doctor, just a patient, presumably I should know what my body is telling me. However, I may not be inclined to listen (ear mostly). Though my life may occasionally be at stake, I still struggle with the facts of my case. I delude myself into thinking that if I don’t give in to the pain and suffering — as rare as they usually are — then I won’t suffer the consequences, dying before my time. I don’t want to believe the worst so I don’t. I wouldn’t attribute my above-average life “unexperienced” since diagnosis (eight years — AND ALWAYS COUNTING) as the power of positive thinking (as the power of positive thinking since I never read the book written by Norman Vincent Peale. But I try not focus too much on my diagnostic reality.

I mean, it’s not as if I laugh in the face of death, heck, I cry more than ever, especially while watching programs on television when heartstrings are pulled. Somehow though, I try not to take this personally, if that makes any sense! I try to take the same Curly Howard of The Three Stooges took in the multiple slapstick pranks. “I’ve a victim of somnambutism.”

But when I get sick, whether or not I feel anything in my chest/legs, I cross over into entirely another realm. No more am I able to talk/humor myself into or out of things, no more am I able to deny my cancer reality and no more am I able to pretend that all is right in my world. It’s during these situations when the metaphorical/proverbial you know what hits my emotional fans and I suffer the most. Unfortunately, there’s not a shut-off button. I just have to ride it out, as bumpy as it usually is, and hope for the best — never to come out the other end is better shape than when I went in.

So far, so good. Although I’m still coughing a bit and blowing my nose, all the other symptoms have subsided and no more do I feel worse for the wear. I don’t suppose it’s cancer related, but of course, what do I know? What do I know is this — if the remaining symptoms linger, I’ll worry, and on Monday, April 19 — for the following week, I’ll worry even more awaiting the results from the CT scan and lower abdomen MRI I have scheduled that day (it’s a special; two for one). Granted, these tests are not any newer than catching a cold, but still, I can’t help wondering. Since I was diagnosed as “terminal,” this can’t keep going on forever, can it?

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for the Patowmac. All rights reserved. The Connection Newspapers.
SATURDAY/APRIL 8
Free Lice Removal. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at 455B Carlisle Drive, Herndon. Lice Clinics of America is providing free lice removal. Call 646-544-2209 or email lca@lcanyc.com for more.
Managing Inflammation Naturally. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Roanoke Towne Drive. Registered dietician Natalie Kannan will share ways to manage chronic inflammation through diet and healthy eating choices. For adults, free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library for more.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 12
Medicare 101. 2-2:30 p.m. at the Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Fairfax County is offering the free seminar, Medicare 101. Contact Karen Braschul at 703-390-6157 for more.
FRIDAY/APRIL 14
Good Friday Services. Noon-3 p.m. at Dranesville Church of the Brethren 11500 Lesson Pike, Herndon. The service will be the Seven Last Words of Christ featuring six half hour services with six local clergy. Email Rev. Kelly at deelly@stfrancisgreatfalls.org for more.

ONGOING
Sunrise at Reston Town Center offers a monthly Caregiver Support Group on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8 p.m. Monthly support groups offers a safe place for family caregivers, to meet and develop a mutual support system and to exchange practical information and possible solutions. Learn about resources available in the community and how to manage caregiver related stress. Call 703-956-8930 or email family@restontowncenterliving.com to RSVP.
Exercise for Parkinson’s. Every Monday, 1:15-2:15 p.m. Reston Sport&Health, 11445 Isaac Newton Square, Reston. This program brings together people impacted by Parkinson’s Disease to participate in various physical exercises aimed at improving posture, balance and circulation and increasing strength, muscle control and mobility. Free. parkinsonfoundation.org.ckacenga@sportandhealth.com 703-621-4148.
Master Gardener Training: The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner’s meetings. Fees vary. Visit Fairfaxgardening.org or call Dora Lockwood at 401-864-4778 for more.
Over-40 Softball League. A Fairfax-based league looking for enough players to form another team. Players must be at last 40 years of age to be eligible. All games are doubleheaders - play on Sundays at Broad Bay Park in Herndon between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Email bhackeb@msn.com for more.
Passages Divorce Care. Tuesdays 6-6:30 p.m., beginning Sept. 13 through Jan. 7. Vienna Presbyterian Church is located on the corner of Maple Avenue (Rt. 123) and Park Street in Vienna, Virginia. Cost to cover materials $20, scholarships available. 703-956-8930, www.viennapers.org or send an email to Pasaged@ViennaPerx.org.

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg
Hutchison Elementary Celebrates International Night

Art and performance foster a culture that values and respects diversity.

To create change, teach the children. After a multi-year absence, Hutchison Elementary School in Herndon opened their doors Thursday evening, March 30, for the return of International Night. The event attracted Hutchison children and their families, many from different cultures and backgrounds.

“We hadn’t done an International Night for a few years,” said Maureen Griffin, Hutchison staff and event organizer. According to Griffin, after an assessment of the previous programs, a different educational experience was shaped. “The new format allows art and performance to be the featured elements,” Griffin said.

The organizers sought to bring positive energy to the exchange. The many enriching hands-on craft and display activities invited the children and their families to participate and learn about other cultures, increasing awareness and support for others.

Having these activities be the focus, better engaged the children and achieved the program’s goal to celebrate and embrace differences between nationalities.

“We wanted to bring people together to celebrate their differences,” said Griffin.

— Mercia Hobson

Anabel Gonzales, 3, traced her hand and drew her original design for Mehndi, a popular form of body art from Ancient India.

Audience participation and active learning: after removing their shoes, more than 30 boys, girls and even staff and parents stepped onto the stage.

Crowds of parents, grandparents and children from different nationalities arrived for International Night at Hutchison Elementary in Herndon. The free event was produced by Hutchison School staff, supported by volunteers and sponsored by Arts Herndon.

Matthew Gutierrez, kindergartner, holds his drawing of the Honduras Flag, created during International Night held at Hutchison Elementary. This summer, Christopher will be visiting Honduras for the first time with his dad whose family resides there.

Eyuanel Simon was instantly attracted to the Maasai Adornment craft table at Hutchinson Elementary School’s International Night. “This is my first time at International Night,” Eyuanel said.

Kelly Gu, an eighth grader at Rachel Carson Middle School, and Tiffany Lee from Green Briar West Elementary in Chantilly demonstrated their performance skills on the Guzherg, a Chinese plucked zither with a 2,500-year history.

Konark Dance School’s affiliated troupe, Jayantika Dance Company, presented senior dancer Juliet Ganguly. To the delight of children and parents attending International Night, Ganguly performed an ancient Indian classical dance about the joy and color of spring.